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BOOK REVIEWS

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF FRANCE, by Edward M. Sait. (Yonkers-on Hudson, New York: World Book Company, 1920, pp. xv, 426, 478.)

This volume comprises the fourth of the series of "Government Handbooks" edited by David P. Barrows and Thomas H. Reed. The Introduction, which deals with the "Functioning of the Parliamentary System in War-Time", is followed by twelve chapters: I. The Constitution of 1875; II. The President of the Republic; III. The Ministers: Their Political Rôle; IV. The Ministers: Their Administrative Rôle; V. The Senate; VI. The Chamber of Deputies: Its Composition; VII. The Chamber of Deputies: Procedure; VIII. Local Government; IX. Political Development; X. Parties; XI. Administrative Courts; XII. The Ordinary Courts. The three appendices give an extensive critical bibliography, a list of "Prime Ministers of France under the Constitution of 1875", and the text of the electoral law of 1919. It would add little to the size and a great deal to the convenience of the book if the Constitutional Laws and the amendments thereto were included. The work is embellished with fourteen attractive illustrations.

This is the only book in English on the French political system as it is today, and it replaces the older works of Lowell and Bodley, which were written in 1896 and 1900, respectively. Their value now lies chiefly in the picture they give of the French government of a generation ago, which is of historical interest and furnishes a background for Professor Sait's book. He points out the changes which have taken place since those works appeared, notably in party development and the committee system of the Chamber of Deputies. He also brings such matters as the case law of the Council of State, the electoral law, and the changes in ministry down to date. The author has made full use of both the French and the English literature on his subject, and has indicated his sources not only in the above-mentioned bibliography but also in the rather full foot-notes.

Professor Sait has no case to establish, but gives an impartial account of French political institutions as he finds them embodied in constitutional and statutory law and in extra-legal development. The work is inclusive in scope, accurate in statement, clear and concise in style. It supplies a need which teachers and students of descriptive political science have long felt.

JAMES HART.

THE NEW WORLD ORDER, by Frederick Charles Hicks. (Garden City & New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1920, pp. viii, 496.)

This work is in reality a treatise on the new international law of today as it has been affected by the League of Nations and the recent treaties. Most of those who have studied international law up to the present time have felt that numerous changes have taken place during

the past few years of which they are uninformed. A great many have felt that international law has become a dead letter and is no longer of any practical age. This volume is destined to cover the ideas evolved by the Great War, and to show that the principles of international law are as much alive as ever.

The first part of the book treats of international organization. In this part the author deals with the relations of States prior to 1914 and the manner in which these relations have led up to the Great War and the birth of the League of Nations. The Balance of Power was the fundamental cause of the Triple Entente, to offset the power of the Triple Alliance. This principle of the Concert of Europe has even been incorporated into the Covenant of the League of Nations, and was strongly in evidence during the negotiations of the Treaty of Versailles in the council of the Big Four. Proposals for a League of Nations date back to Erasmus's "Complaint of Peace" in 1516, and such proposals have been frequently repeated since that time. Instances of former leagues are to be found in the Confederation of Europe and the Central American League of Nations. The former started out with the idea of co-operation, but the idea of preserving existing governments was allowed to creep into it and was the main cause of its failure. The Central American League of Nations is, on the other hand, the best example of a league in history, and is a good model except for the fact that it provides for no control over its relations with non-members. The present League of Nations has such control, and therefore whether or not the United States remains outside, the League Covenant will affect our foreign relations unless it fails utterly of its purposes. The primary functions of the League are "to promote international co-operation and achieve international peace and security".

The second part of the volume deals with international law and the League. In answer to the statement that there is no such thing as international law, the author sets forth the fact that a breach does not destroy international law any more than safe breaking destroys the criminal law. Germany is now suffering the penalty for its breach just as the criminal is punished. The League Covenant sets forth the rules of law but it has no legislative body to make further rules. The council and assembly can propose amendments, but these must be ratified by a majority of the States and are not binding upon a dissenting State if such State withdraws from the League. The International Commission of Inquiry of the Hague Conference and the Bryan Treaties are still in force. After arbitration, however, a State cannot go to war except under the rules of the League.

The third part of the work is entitled "International Co-operation and the League". Mr. Hicks is a firm believer in the value of co-operation as an end in itself and sets forth clearly a number of examples of it gathered from recent history. The part which co-operation played in the Great War is familiar to most of us and it is here discussed in detail. In addition to this there have been numerous instances of co-operation in times of peace, such as the postal service, extradition, international labor organizations, the Red Cross, etc. Each of these is care-

fully treated and the way in which it has been handled in the League Covenant is explained.

Very nearly one half of the volume is taken up by appendices which give the text of the Treaty of Peace with Germany (including the Covenant of the League of Nations and the Labor Organization), and the texts of a number of other important alliances and treaties.

The parts of the book which deal with universal international law as it existed prior to the Great War seem to be written for those who already have a fundamental knowledge of the principles of this subject. The author does not take very great pains to explain these principles to a layman. As a whole, however, the work presents a scholarly and accurate treatment of the subject. Any one who desires a comprehensive knowledge of the present status of international affairs will find this volume very interesting and well worth the time spent in reading it.

A. W. H. T.

CASES ON THE LAW OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND PERSONS, by Edwin H. Woodruff. (Ithaca, New York: The Baker Vorhis Co., 1920, pp. 753.)

As the title would indicate, the author of this volume has not confined himself simply to the law of Domestic Relations but has devoted a part of his work to the law of Persons. The chapter on Aliens is indeed timely. At present the status and rights of all aliens are acutely important. On the other hand the subject of "Drunkenness" is hardly worth the full treatment it has received. The cases incorporated under this title are, however, very interesting.

The author's division of the law of Domestic Relations follows the ordinary and logical scheme. The distinction between the contract to marry and the contract of marriage is nicely observed, both as to defenses and as to the status assumed by the contracting parties. The book is truly a case book, in that it is absolutely devoid of any words of the author. The only use of foot-notes is to insert the words of some judge, whose opinion is too long to be given in full. The advisability of omitting explanatory notes by the author is at least debatable.

On the whole, the work is very satisfactory as a collection of illustrative cases on the law of Domestic Relations and Persons. The cases are well chosen and cover the field accurately. The book will be of value in those law schools which encourage their students in the study of cases alone; and in which, consequently, the lack of explanatory notes will not be felt.

J. S. C.